

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 00336 171353Z
ACTION EUR-12

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P 171142Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7458

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0336

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RO US OVIP (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE)
SUBJECT: 560TH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FOR PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU

REFS: (A) BUCHAREST 0253, (B) STATE 9383

1. ROMANIA MEDIA HAVE BEGUN MAJOR BUILDUP TOWARD PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S JANUARY 26 SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY, AND IN JANUARY 16 MEETING NATO AMBASSADORS IN BUCHAREST AGREED THAT A GROUNDSWELL OF CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM ABROAD CAN BE ANTICIPATED. ALMOST ALL AMBASSADORS HAVE ALREADY RECOMMENDED MESSAGES FROM THEIR CAPITALS AND REQUESTED TEXTS, ALTHOUGH NO REPLIES YET REPORTED, AND OTHERS PLAN TO DO SO FORTHWITH. SIXTIETH IS TRADITIONALLY MOST IMPORTANT BIRTHDAY FOR SOVIET/EE LEADERS, AND AS ONE OF MOST TRADITIONAL OF THESE LEADERS CEAUSESCU WILL BE CELEBRATING HIS IN STYLE.

2. GIVEN STRONG LIKELIHOOD OF APRIL VISIT (REFTELS), EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL FOR PRESIDENT TO DISPATCH A BRIEF CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO CEAUSESCU ON THIS OCCASION IF CURRENT U.S. PRACICE PERMITS. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT TWO PRESIDENTS HAVE NOT YET MET, BUT UPCOMING VISIT PROVIDES SOME WARRANT FOR MESSAGE AND, DEPENDING ON WHEN CEAUSESCU ACCEPTS OUR PROPOSED DATES (HE IS STILL IN PREDEAL JANUARY 17),
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COULD SERVE AS ONE MOTIF. STATUS AND HISTORY OF U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS WOULD ALSO MAKE IT AWKWARD, WE BELIEVE, FOR U.S. TO BE ONLY MAJOR ILUNTRY NOT PRESENT IN FORMAL TERMS ON THIS OCCASION.
AGGREY

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